

# JACKSON COUNTY

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## PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To decrease the rampant use and manufacturing of crystal methamphetamine
2. To develop services for children with MI/MR diagnosis who exhibit aggressive behaviors which exceed capacities to be managed in a less restricted setting
3. To provide age appropriate and behaviorally specific parenting classes

# Issues

*Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.*

## **Health - Children's (0 - 19)** physical and mental well-being in the county.

### **Obesity in Children**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote healthy eating habits
- Promote physical activity instead of sedentary lifestyle
- Encourage schools to provide healthy food options
- Participate in health fairs to promote healthy food and physical activity

### **Lack of Medical and Dental Services for Children**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- encourage all medical and dental offices to help by accepting Medicaid patients
- promote enrollment of children in Medicaid and All Kids insurance programs
- encourage medical specialists to recruit to this area

### **Lack of knowledge concerning healthy active lifestyles**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- participate with school and community groups to provide information concerning pregnancy prevention, STD's, healthy lifestyles, and other related topics for teens
- participate with schools to provide health/hygiene education for students and parents
- utilize news media to provide health information related to childhood issues

## **Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs. To decrease the rampant use and manufacturing of crystal methamphetamine**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- to promote an increase in community awareness and involvement
- to develop and implement school based prevention program targeting middle and junior high school grade levels
- to improve the community treatment and education programs

### **To develop services for children MI/MR diagnosis who exhibit aggressive behaviors which exceed capacities to be managed in a less restricted setting**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- to promote an increase in community awareness and involvement
- to develop and implement school based prevention program targeting middle and junior high school grade levels
- to improve the community treatment and education program

### **To improve services for juvenile sexual offenders**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- to develop and implement intervention and treatment programs for juvenile sexual offenders
- to encourage local mental health center to provide services specific to sexual offenders

## **Education - Children** learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

### **Alternative Education/Day Treatment Center**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure funding
- secure building/place
- secure staff

### **Social workers for schools**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop job description
- secure funding
- hire staff

### **Employment for non- college bound students after graduation**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop employment committee to investigate and explore more job training opportunities for our Jackson County students
- work with employers to assist with job coaching if necessary
- access to see how productive this process was

## Early Care and

**Education** - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Preschool for children with disabilities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- organize community of agency heads to develop the specific details of this program, including funding
- secure facilities to house and remodel to meet building codes if necessary
- staff with appropriate personnel to provide necessary therapy and instruction to the children

### Many young children not ready for kindergarten

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure funding
- select staff
- implement program

### Professional Development

Policy Council Action Steps:

- organize community to develop professional development plan to include awareness training to multiple agencies on each agencies guidelines, so each has an understanding of why they do the things they do

## Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### Promote the Business and Workforce Development Programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- continue to identify, prioritize, and address country wide issues that impact economic prosperity
- implementation of our workforce development/education programs that assists citizens in acquiring skills and knowledge to participate in the world of work
- implementation of a retail/commercial program that focuses on recruitment of new business and expansion/retraining current business in county

**Children must have quality care while their parents work or attend education/training programs in order to provide them with a financially stable home and meet their basic needs**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with local entities to maintain current data statistics as to the need for additional childcare facilities as to the need for expanding hours of services
- educate existing county childcare facilities as to the need for expanding hours of services
- encourage development of new childcare center facilities and licensed family and group homes that will accommodate the childcare needs of working families in the county

### Adults need resources and locations to find current job availability

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with local entities developing a network of individuals and business to partner for job resources
- implement a program for job seekers to determine how best to use networking opportunities

## **Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and**

**guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.**

### **To provide age appropriate and behaviorally specific parenting classes**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- establish a family services center with the capacity to assess needs and access appropriate services in order to enhance parenting skills
- to refer parents to the existing parenting classes , which will be provided at Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center

## **Children must have quality care while their parents work or attend education/training programs in order to provide them with a financially stable home and meet their basic needs**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with local entities to maintain current data/statistics as to the need for additional child care facilities and/or care on weekends and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift
- educate existing county childcare facilities as to the need for expanding their hours of service
- encourage development of new child care facilities and licensed family and group homes that will accommodate the childcare needs of all the working families in the county

- work with the Child Care Resource Network and the Department of Human Resources to get additional funding needed to increase the number of slots and the rate of supported childcare payments for low income families
- encourage development of daycare for children with special healthcare needs

## **Provide in home skills building for parents who are deficient in basic homemaking and child rearing, to include children who are referred to Juvenile Court for ungovernable behavior**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- provide funding for qualified in home family care specialist to provide appropriate services

## **Policy Recommendation**

1. Legislation to provide oversight for home school programs
2. Earlier access to grant information

